

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01 OC-05

CCO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 USSS-00 AID-05 NIC-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 FBO-02 ACDA-05 EB-07 /099 W

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O R 291730Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1565

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: JAN 31 DEMONSTRATIONS: SERIOUS PROBLEMS EITHER WAY

1. THREE IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOW SCHEDULED FOR

FRIDAY JAN 31 AT FOLLOWING TIMES AND PLACES:

(A) SOCIALISTS (PS) 7:00 PM TO START AVENIDA LIBERDAD AND

MARCH TO PRCAC DO COMERCIO.

(B) PCP, PLUS MDP, MES, AND FSP, 7:30 PM TO START AT

ENTRECAMPLOS AND MARCH TO PRACA DE POMBAL VIA REPUBLICA AND

PEREIRA DE MELO.

(C) MRPP 7:30 PM IN ROSSIO.

2. TIMES AND PLACES OF DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CLOSE ENOUGH SO THERE
COULD BE ADVERTANT OR INADVERTANT OVERLAPS AND CONFRONTATIONS.

SOCIALISTA ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SHOW OF FORCE. HIGH PPD

OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF JAN 29 THAT HE WOULD BE OUT HELPING

SOCIALISTS PUT UP POSTERS AND THAT PPD WAS QUIETLY COOPERATING

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WITH PS TO MAKE DEMONSTRATION BIG SUCCESS.

3. PCP DEMONSTRATION IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED, BUT
MRPP HAS HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND ITS RALLY IS RIGHT IN PATH OF
SOCIALIST MARCH.

4. WIDELY HELD VIEW IN LISBON IS THAT PCP SCHEDULED ITS RALLY
AT SAME TIME AS PS IN ORDER PROVIDE GOP EXCUSE TO CANCEL ALL
RALLIES. GOP HAS SAID NOTHING OFFICIAL TO DATE. SOARES TOLD
AMBASSADOR PS WAS DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD DESPITE A CANCELLATION BY
GOP.

5. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME TALK OF JOINT RALLY SINCE PCP AND PS
AT LEAST ARE BOTH OSTENSIBLY RALLYING IN SUPPORT OF AFM.
COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL, AMONG OTHERS, FLOATED THE IDEA AT HIS
PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 27 (LISBON 493).

6. COMMENT: THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE FOR ALL CONCERNED: PRIME
MINISTER REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED MATTER MORNING OF JAN 29 WITH SOARES,
CUNHAL, AND MILITARY MINISTERS. QUESTION IS WHETHER GOP WILL
GO ALONG WITH PCP MANEUVER TO PREVENT SOCIALIST SHOW OF FORCE.
FEISTY SOCIALISTS UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO JOINT DEMONSTRATION AND
COULD WELL DEFY GOVERNMENT ORDER TO CANCEL DEMONSTRATIONS.

7. IF PS DEMONSTRATION IS HELD IT WILL BE IMPORTANT INDICATOR
OF ABILITY OF MODERATE FORCES IN PORTUGAL TO MUSTER SUPPORT.

8. THERE IS REAL QUESTION, IF VIOLENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE,
WHETHER SECURITY FORCES HAVE WITHER WILL OR CAPACITY TO
HANDLE SITUATION.

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